



# Think ReadyReturn

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## Introduction

ReadyReturn was developed to make tax return filing easier for a selected number of taxpayers who file the simplest returns. We use information we already have, such as W-2 information, to complete taxpayers' California income tax returns.

In mid January 2008, the ReadyReturn "opt in" service for tax year 2007 will be available for taxpayers who meet all of the following criteria:

- Filed a previous-year resident tax return
- Single filing status
- No dependents
- Standard deduction
- No special credits
- Income from wages only
- One employer
- Four quarters of 2007 wage information available to us

Taxpayers can come to our website to find out if we have a completed tax return for them and choose to e-file it online or print it out and mail it to us. Taxpayers without internet access and those who prefer to file on paper can call us toll free at (800) 852-5711 to find out if we have a completed return for them and request that we mail it to them. Social security numbers will not be printed on any ReadyReturn that we mail. Taxpayers must write their SSN on their paper ReadyReturn before they mail it back to us.

Using either method, taxpayers have the option of filing it, changing it, or completing their own return.



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## Facts

### Description

ReadyReturn is a free service the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) developed to make filing individual income tax returns easier. FTB uses information they already have, including previously filed tax returns and information employers report to the Employment Development Department (EDD), to pre-fill a California state tax return for eligible taxpayers.

If a taxpayer is eligible, they need to review their ReadyReturn, make any necessary changes, and sign and file the return. This service is voluntary; taxpayers are not required to use ReadyReturn.

ReadyReturn is available from January 2, 2008 through October 15, 2008. FTB will update ReadyReturn with final 2007 wage information from January 15, 2008 through October 14, 2008.

### Eligibility

Nearly 1 million taxpayers are eligible. To be eligible, a taxpayer must have filed a 2006 California Resident Income Tax Return with the following characteristics:

- Single filing status
- No dependents and not claimed as a dependent
- Standard deduction
- No special credits or taxes

In addition, the taxpayer must have a valid California address and only one employer in 2007.

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### Benefits

#### Taxpayer benefits:

- It's free – FTB does not charge for this service.
- It's easy – The taxpayer's information is already there. All the taxpayer needs to do is verify the information, update information that may have changed, add missing information, and sign and file the return.
- It's convenient – ReadyReturn is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.
- It's safe – FTB uses the latest technologies and practices to keep taxpayer information secure and to protect them from identity theft.
- It's fast – When a taxpayer uses ReadyReturn online and chooses to get their refund by direct deposit, they will generally have their money within one week.

#### State benefits:

- ReadyReturn speeds up return processing because the initial information already matches FTB records.
- ReadyReturn saves the State money by reducing the number of return correction notices FTB needs to send.
- ReadyReturns filed online save the State even more money because they are more efficient to process.

ReadyReturn is available from January 2, 2008 through October 15, 2008. FTB will update ReadyReturn with final 2007 wage information from January 15, 2008 through October 14, 2008.

### More Information

To check eligibility:

- Go to [ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn](http://ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn). The taxpayer will need to enter their last name and social security number.
- Call (800) 338-0505. The taxpayer will need to provide their social security number and mailing address.

For general information and information about the two-year pilot program, go to [ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn/about.shtml](http://ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn/about.shtml).



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## FAQs

### Who is eligible?

Nearly 1 million taxpayers are eligible. To be eligible, a taxpayer must have filed a 2006 California Resident Income Tax Return with the following characteristics:

- Single filing status
- No dependents and not claimed as a dependent
- Standard deduction
- No special credits or taxes

In addition, the taxpayer must have a valid California address and only one employer in 2007.

### How does a taxpayer find out if they are eligible?

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) offers two ways for taxpayers to find out if they qualify:

**Online** – Go to [ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn](http://ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn) and enter their last name and social security number.

**By phone** – Call (800) 338-0505 and their your social security number and mailing address.

### Does a taxpayer have to use ReadyReturn if he/she qualifies?

No. ReadyReturn is a voluntary program. Taxpayers can choose to use ReadyReturn or the filing method of their choice.

### Where does the information on the ReadyReturn come from?

The information on the ReadyReturn comes from:

- FTB's master taxpayer database.
- The most recent tax return the taxpayer filed.
- Employer reporting to the Employment Development Department (EDD).
- The 2007 California Personal Income Tax Booklet.

### [More questions](#)



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### What should the taxpayer do if their ReadyReturn is not correct?

Because ReadyReturns are based on information from the taxpayer's previous tax return, some information may have changed. The easiest way to update this information is to use ReadyReturn online. The application guides the taxpayer through changing their address, reporting additional income, itemizing their deductions, and claiming tax credits they qualify for.

### Why are some ReadyReturns not ready?

ReadyReturns are "ready" once FTB receives a taxpayer's final wage information from their employer.

FTB updates wage information every day. However, when they receive an individual taxpayer's information depends on when the taxpayer's employer provides it to the Employment Development Department (EDD).

Employers are required to provide taxpayers with their Form W-2 by January 31. Employers often provide this information to EDD around the same time they mail it to taxpayers.

FTB generally receives about 50% of all taxpayer wage information by mid-February, with 90% of the information received by mid-March.

### What can a taxpayer do if his/her ReadyReturn is not ready?

Currently, taxpayers need to check back on FTB's Website or call FTB to find out if their return is ready. FTB is developing a system that will allow taxpayers to provide an email address where FTB can reach them once their return is ready.



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### Website

[www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)

### Toll free automated phone

(800) 338-0505

### Toll free (speak to a customer service representative)

(800) 852-5711



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## Logos

Click on the links below to open different variations of the ReadyReturn Logo.

Low Resolution (for web) - jpeg. file

[Color ReadyReturn Logo](#)

[Black and White](#)

High Resolution - jpeg. file

[Color ReadyReturn Logo](#)

[Black and White](#)



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## Poster

Click on the link below to open the ReadyReturn Poster (pdf file).

[ReadyReturn Poster](#)





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## Action Cards

Click on the link below to open the ReadyReturn Action Cards (pdf file).

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## Stickers

Click on the link below to open the ReadyReturn Stickers (pdf file). Print on Avery Labels 6871.

[ReadyReturn Stickers](#)



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## Videos

Click on the links below to open the ReadyReturn videos (link to Franchise Tax Board YouTube page).

[ReadyReturn Video 1](#)

[ReadyReturn Video 2](#)

[ReadyReturn Video 3](#)

[ReadyReturn Video 4](#)

To see other videos visit the FTB YouTube page at:

[YouTube.com/franchisetaxboard](https://www.youtube.com/franchisetaxboard) or search **ReadyReturn** at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



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## Articles

### The Franchise Tax Board's ReadyReturn Simplifies Tax Filing for Many

The Franchise Tax Board is completing tax returns for single wage earners with one employer who take the standard deduction. See if they have completed a tax return for you by visiting their Website at [ftb.ca.gov](http://ftb.ca.gov).

"ReadyReturn will ease the tax filing burden for up to one million taxpayers in the state," said State Controller and FTB Chair John Chiang. "After they review and approve the return, taxpayers can return it electronically and check to have a refund automatically deposited in their bank account. All that without having to go through a tax booklet."

ReadyReturn provides a completed tax return for eligible filers, based on information such as W-2s that are already supplied to the state. All the taxpayer has to do is approve the completed return and e-file or mail it to the Franchise Tax Board.

Don't spend your valuable time struggling with tax forms and instructions. Check out ReadyReturn today! For more information visit the Franchise Tax Board's Website or call (800) 852-5711.



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